

A central back, whose job is to stop the opponent's attack. But from that defense itself, he is moving up in counter-attacks, entering the opponent's box and scoring goals. He is none other than the icon of Bagerhat, Mohammad Uzair Hossain Sajib.

In the upcoming Minister Cup Football Tournament, viewers from all over Bangladesh will watch his game. Talking to Uzair in this regard, it is learned that he really wants to utilize this opportunity given by the government to become the second Hamza on everyone's lips across Bangladesh.

Talking to his family, it is learned that he has been a football lover since childhood. Family-wise they are poor. Father's income is limited. Even then he is continuing his studies. He has already passed SSC and has given the Intermediate exam, the result has not yet come out.

Yet every day he is shedding thousands of drops of sweat from his body. The target is only one - he will be a star and will hold up the flag of Bangladesh among the whole world. In his own words, if he gets good training, he will be able to present very good game.

Identity of Uzair.

- Age: 17-18 years
- Height: 5 feet 11 inches
- Position: Central Back
- Speciality Experience of scoring goals from counter-attacks.

Attack on Radda MCH-FP centre condemnable

We are shocked by the violent attack, looting and destruction of the Radda MCH-FP Centre in Dhaka’s Mirpur-1 area, which has been providing healthcare, maternity, family planning and vaccination services to local residents for nearly 50 years. According to reports, more than 200 people, some masked and armed with locally made weapons, allegedly entered the healthcare facility on Thursday night and held the security guards hostage, looted medical equipment, medicines and cash, and then used heavy machinery to demolish one permanent and three semi-permanent structures. The reported failure of the police to intervene and stop the destruction is particularly concerning. The CCTV footage of the attack shows police members remaining inactive while the looted goods were being loaded onto a pick-up truck. The Shah Ali Police Station OC has also reportedly acknowledged that police were present at the scene during the attack. The question is, if police cannot prevent a large group of people from openly looting and demolishing a healthcare facility in the capital, how will they protect citizens from other forms of organised violence elsewhere in the country? The routine formation of a committee to investigate whether there was negligence or failure on the police’s part does little to restore public confidence. The Radda authorities suspect that the attack was an attempt to take control of the property. In a case filed by the centre, former Dhaka North BNP member Hanif Mia and 200-250 unidentified suspects have been named as accused. These allegations must be properly investigated, and if anyone is found to have used political connections to facilitate the attack or attempted to encroach on the property, they must be held accountable regardless of their political affiliation. And any dispute over land ownership must be resolved through lawful means. The incident happened at a time when the country’s overall law and order situation remains worrying. Cases of murder, violence against women and children, and attacks on police have all increased in recent months. The police members’ weakened morale and hesitation to act even when lawful intervention is necessary are particularly concerning. The Radda incident further underscores these concerns. If law enforcers lack the confidence, institutional support or willingness to act against organised violence, criminals and politically connected groups may become increasingly emboldened. Hence, restoring police confidence must go hand-in-hand with ensuring accountability for failure to perform their duties. In this particular case, we urge the government to conduct an independent and credible investigation into both the attack and the alleged police failure, and ensure that anyone found responsible faces the law. The government must also ensure that the Radda centre’s essential healthcare and vaccination services are fully restored as quickly as possible, and that its property is protected from further encroachment.

PM to inaugurate Tk 1,542cr

public would be allowed to enter.He also said the prime minister was expected to travel to Parshuram by road according to the tentative schedule, while arrangements for his return had not yet been finalised.Meanwhile, preparations for the prime minister’s visit are nearing completion.During a field visit, it was seen that preparations were underway to set up the public meeting venue on the bank of the Muhuri River in Ghata Ghar area of Parshuram.Besides, preparations were also underway to construct a temporary helipad at Parshuram Pilot High School ground. Construction of the stage, inauguration plaque area and other necessary infrastructure at the venue was nearing completion.Arrangements are being made to provide safe drinking water for people attending the public meeting. The Department of Public Health Engineering is installing water tanks and portable toilets and making other sanitation arrangements at the venue. Cleaning and other necessary preparatory activities are also underway at and around the event venue. The Roads and Highways Department is carrying out repair and maintenance work on several important sections of the Feni-Parshuram main road to ensure smooth and safe road communication.Necessary repair and preparatory work is also being carried out around the public meeting venue along the Parshuram-Subar Bazar road.Beautification work is similarly underway at Fulgazi Government Pilot High School ground and other important locations. Meanwhile, local people hope the government will take permanent measures to address flooding and river erosion, establish a medical college and public university in Feni, construct an underpass at Lalpol, create employment opportunities, and improve communication and infrastructure in the district.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen

Foreign Affairs Humair Kobir and Investment Bangladesh Authority Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun were present at the meeting. Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy Dr Liu Yuyin accompanied the ambassador.

Three Furnace Explosions

However, no official statement was immediately available from the authorities concerned or the company regarding the exact causes of the explosions, the extent of damage, or the current condition of the injured workers. Concerned parties have called for an investigation into whether the applicable labour laws and workplace safety regulations are being properly implemented at the industrial facility to ensure workers’ safety. Following the repeated furnace explosions, demands have been raised for a thorough investigation into the actual causes of the incidents, an assessment of the effectiveness of the existing safety measures, and immediate steps by the relevant authorities to ensure the safety of workers.

Proposed cyber law won't

Yasser Khan Choudhury, ministry Secretary Mahbuba Farjana and Principal Information Officer Syed Abdal Ahmed, among others, spoke at the meeting.Salahuddin said the government would finalise the bill only after extensive consultations with IT experts, media professionals, human rights organisations and other stakeholders. He said the draft legislation had already been published on the government website to seek public opinion following a Cabinet directive for wider consultations. Opinions have so far been received from various institutions, human rights groups, students and cyberspace users, which are being reviewed by the government, he said. At the meeting, Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam proposed further consultations between media and cybersecurity experts to ensure that the law does not adversely affect journalists and that appropriate safeguards, including a "saving clause", are incorporated into it. The government has accepted the proposal," the minister said.A key proposal discussed at the meeting was to make prior court approval mandatory before taking action against or arresting a journalist, he said. Stakeholders will submit formal recommendations on the proposal within 15 days, which will then be considered for possible inclusion in the draft, he added. The government also plans to set a specific time limit for the disposal of cases and appeals to prevent people from remaining entangled in legal proceedings indefinitely, the minister said. The Principal Information Officer has been designated as the

Media reform and journalism protection law can help counter disinformation

Md. Neyamul Hossain

bullying, and ensure professional safeguards for journalists while preventing any misuse of the law.” There is no doubt that the abuse of women through vulgarity, indecency and sexualised language and images has reached an alarming level in Bangladesh and must be curbed. But such provisions should not be extended to defamation and humiliation in ways that could encompass legitimate political or non-political criticism, which is often open to differing interpretations. The media and journalists have been particularly vulnerable to such misinterpretation since the government began regulating the digital sphere. The problem has been compounded by police and magistrates entertaining cases filed by third parties rather than by the individuals who were allegedly defamed. There have also been instances in which established legal norms were disregarded by registering multiple cases at different locations over the same alleged offence. No one has been held accountable for such arbitrary and politically motivated use of the law. The government is now proposing amendments that would give all security agencies—and even the information ministry—a role in enforcement.In the past, cyber laws were weaponised to intimidate the media, resulting in the imprisonment of journalists, editors and publishers. This was possible in part because a number of provisions of the Digital Security Act (2018) and Cyber Security Act (2023) were non-bailable. Criminalising speech-related offences is fundamentally at odds with democratic principles, and making such penalties more stringent could further chill citizens’ ability to hold their government and elected representatives accountable. At the same time, genuine cybercrimes—including exploiting vulnerable people through gambling, defrauding customers through the sale of substandard goods and services, using social media to sell contraband such as drugs, promoting pornography, etc—require stronger enforcement and appropriate penalties. Accountability should extend both to the criminals responsible and, where appropriate, to platforms that facilitate unlawful activities. Addressing this complex challenge requires four broad objectives: preventing cybercrime and punishing perpetrators; protecting citizens from digital harm; holding platforms accountable for content and activities they facilitate; and safeguarding freedom of speech and journalism by protecting media organ-

enforcement agencies, the public, social and religious leaders and the media would help curb the spread of drugs and pave the way for a safer and more peaceful society.

Attempt to Celebrate Sheikh

in various areas of Chattogram city as well as the Hathazari, Fatikchhari, and Raazan upazilas. Confirming the arrests, Md. Ikhtiar Uddin, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bayezid Bostami Police Station, said that based on secret information, police conducted a drive while the group was preparing for and holding a cake-cutting ceremony to mark Sheikh Hasina’s birthday late Sunday night. Seven persons, including three women, were taken into custody from the spot. According to police sources, one of the arrestees, Nurul Hakim Rabbi, had earlier attended a birthday cake-cutting event for Sheikh Hasina in the city’s Panchlailah area. Later, when he went to distribute food at an old age home in the Bayezid area, police detained him. Based on the information provided by him during interrogation, police conducted a drive and arrested six others involved in the incident. Police claimed that the detainees are directly involved in the politics of the banned organization Chhatra League and were attempting to carry out flash gatherings through these activities. The process of taking legal action against them is currently underway.

Bangladesh can

He pointed to the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B), a joint concept agreed by Japan and Bangladesh, which focuses on the Dhaka-Chattogram-Matarbari corridor to develop industrial and logistics networks. He said infrastructure projects being implemented with Japanese support, including the Matarbari development and the Jamuna Railway Bridge, would contribute not only to Bangladesh’s economic development but also to stronger regional connectivity. But infrastructure alone would not be enough to turn Bangladesh into a regional hub, he said. “It will be important not only to develop domestic infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports, but also to pursue policy initiatives that facilitate the movement of goods and people across borders with neighbouring countries,” Kataoka said. He said stronger links between different modes of transport, more efficient logistics services and smoother cross-border movement would help Bangladesh integrate more closely with regional supply chains. Kataoka also stressed the need for a more predictable, transparent and business-friendly investment environment. He said companies can sometimes face difficulties when they have to deal with several government agencies separately to resolve a single issue. As a solution, he suggested introducing a single point of contact that could coordinate with the relevant agencies and follow an investor’s case until it is resolved. He said the one-stop service system should go beyond simply receiving applications. A stronger case-management system, under which a designated official or office would take responsibility for following a company’s issue through to completion, could make the process easier for investors.Kataoka also called for further digitalisation of government services. Fully online procedures, where possible, could improve transparency and predictability while reducing the scope for individual discretion, he said. He said efficient infrastructure, predictable regulations and better coordination among government agencies would make Bangladesh more attractive to Japanese companies looking to expand their regional investment and supply-chain operations. “If these efforts continue to progress, they are expected to generate broad economic benefits for Bangladesh, including job creation, increased trade, and greater people-to-people exchanges,” he said. Kataoka said Japan would continue to cooperate with Bangladesh in infrastructure and industrial development, reflecting its interest in Bangladesh’s potential as a future regional growth hub. He said the successful development of the Dhaka-Chattogram-Matarbari corridor, together with improved connectivity with neighbouring countries, could help strengthen Bangladesh’s position in regional logistics and industrial networks and open up new opportunities for investment and trade.

Nahid demands Home Minister’

accused the government of politicising public recruitment, citing the exclusion of candidates from the primary school

isations from arbitrary deplatforming or censorship by major technology companies. We can draw useful lessons from the European Union and the UK, which have established separate legal frameworks for digital services and media freedom. The EU’s Digital Services Act (DSA), for example, establishes rules governing online services used by European citizens, including marketplaces, social media networks, app stores, and online travel and accommodation platforms. Digital platforms must address systemic risks, improve transparency, and protect minors through a range of obligations. The DSA also requires platforms to explain content removals, provide clear appeal mechanisms, and offer accessible tools for reporting illegal material. Advertising targeted at minors or based on sensitive personal data is restricted. Platforms must offer users an option for non-personalised feeds, deceptive interface practices known as “dark patterns” are prohibited, and online marketplaces must verify and display seller information. Some European countries are going further by introducing additional measures to protect children from online harms, including age restrictions. Bangladesh, by contrast, continues to struggle with such abuses. Numerous gambling sites are advertised on Facebook and other platforms, contributing to addiction and, reportedly, bankruptcy and heavy debt, with some cases allegedly ending in suicide. Authorities have also struggled to curb fraudulent sales of substandard goods and services and the promotion of illicit online activities. Disinformation, particularly when it originates across borders or proliferates during elections, presents another serious challenge. Here, too, the EU has placed greater responsibility on technology companies through a framework of stringent regulations. Under the Digital Services Act, large online platforms and search engines must take measures to mitigate systemic risks or face potentially substantial financial penalties. The strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation also encourages platforms to reduce the monetisation of disinformation and support fact-checking. The EU has also introduced rules to increase transparency in political advertising and limit the potential for foreign interference in elections. Independent fact-checkers and researchers have received institutional and financial support, along with opportunities to work with technology companies and regulators.The EU’s European Media Freedom Act and the UK’s Online Safety Act 2023, likewise, provide specific safeguards for journalism and media freedom.

teacher recruitment process following police verification.He said qualified candidates should not be disqualified without specific evidence of their involvement in criminal or anti-state activities. Nahid said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman’s recent address to the United Nations General Assembly had failed to reflect the expectations and concerns of Bangladeshi people.He said the prime minister missed an opportunity to highlight key national concerns including the ongoing energy crisis, border killings, push-ins from India, the Rohingya crisis and the implementation of the Teesta project. On constitutional reforms, Nahid rejected the government’s initiative to form a parliamentary committee to amend the Constitution, arguing that fundamental reforms could not be achieved through the regular amendment process.He called for the immediate convening of the Constitution Reform Council to implement the July National Charter, warning that the NCP would continue its programmes and move towards tougher action if the government fails to do so. Nahid also expressed concern over the proposed Cyber Security Act, alleging that it could curtail freedom of expression and be used to suppress criticism of the government. On the upcoming local government elections, he said the NCP would contest independently and support candidates committed to combating extortion, terrorism and land grabbing. Senior party leaders Akhter Hossen, Sarjis Alam, Hasnat Abdullah, Nasiruddin Patwari, among others, were also present at the meeting.

VAT collection grows 11.07pc at

nificant. The target shortfall is due to the declining volume of overall business, particularly in the import-export sector," Customs, Excise and VAT Commissioner of Chattogram Sheikh Abu Faisal Mohammad Murad said.He said the commissionerate is working to strengthen revenue collection drives and has directed officials to motivate businesses to pay VAT and other applicable taxes to accelerate revenue growth in the future. Revenue collection showed mixed trends during the first quarter of FY25-26.In July, the commissionerate collected Tk 1,702.78 crore, registering 6.30 percent year-on-year growth but falling Tk 300.20 crore short of the target. In August, collection stood at Tk 1,285.53 crore, with growth slowing to 0.94 percent and a Tk 313.46 crore shortfall against the target.The trend reversed in September, when revenue collection rose to Tk 1,785.21 crore, marking a 27.16 percent year-on-year increase. The collection was Tk 381.34 crore higher than in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year and exceeded the monthly target by Tk 24.53 crore.Revenue collection stood at Tk 1,413.77 crore in October, Tk 1,389.84 crore in November and Tk 1,752.93 crore in December.Collections in January and February were Tk 1,415.82 crore and Tk 1,441.59 crore respectively.In March, collection dropped to Tk 1,260.40 crore, down Tk 148.46 crore or 10.54 percent from the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year. It also fell Tk 782.87 crore short of the monthly target.Revenue collection, however, increased in April and May compared to the corresponding months of FY24-25, reaching Tk 1,684.82 crore and Tk 1,413.73 crore respectively. In June, the commissionerate collected Tk 1,889.47 crore, registering a 19.52 percent increase from the same month of the previous fiscal year.Commissioner Murad said the scope of revenue collection has expanded following the enlistment of new business enterprises under the VAT network and increased surveillance to prevent VAT evasion.He said high-risk and large business entities were identified through risk management and risk profiling, while their transactions and VAT returns were being closely monitored. he commissionerate has also intensified surveillance to ensure VAT collection from government agencies, autonomous bodies and non-governmental organisations, he added. Besides, special initiatives are underway to detect tax evasion and recover long-outstanding VAT arrears, he said.

Recruitment process for primary

Teachers’ Day event, he said.He said the government is working tirelessly to ensure the professional dignity of teachers.The meeting was attended by Mir Shahe Alam, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives; Whips of the National Parliament Rakibul Islam Bakul and Mia Nuruddin Apu; Abdul Khaleque, Secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division; Md. Daud Mia, Secretary of the Technical and Madrasah Education Division; and Jasmin Nahar, Secretary of Primary and Mass Education.



Bangladesh, Pakistan discuss health cooperation

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh and Pakistan on Monday discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the health sector including finalisation of a proposed memorandum of understanding (MoU), pharmaceuticals, capacity building of health professionals and organ transplantation. The discussions came when Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md Shakawat Husain, according to a press release issued by the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka. During the meeting, the High Commissioner briefed the minister on proposals for collaboration between Bangladesh's health sector and the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute and Research Centre (PKLI&RC) and Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in organ transplantation. GIMS has offered to train Bangladeshi doctors in

◆ see page 7

President urges businesses to explore Saudi Arabia's emerging opportunities

Staff Correspondent

President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Monday urged Bangladeshi businesses and entrepreneurs to tap the vast opportunities in Saudi Arabia, particu-

larly in skilled manpower export, health-care, education and infrastructure development. The president made the call when a 7-member delegation of Saudi Arabia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its

President Ashraful Haque Chowdhury, paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban on Monday afternoon. The delegation briefed the president on the opportunities for Bangladeshi businesses and

◆ see page 7

A vast expanse of greenery amidst the waters: The potential of 'Majher Char' in Amtali



Amtali (Barguna) Correspondent

The Payra River stretches out in all directions, framing a landscape that alternates

between rows of trees and open green meadows. As one travels by boat across the river's waters, this exquisite terrain gradually comes into view. From a distance, it appears as though a green island has emerged from the heart of the Payra River. 'Majher Char'—located in Ward No. 1 of Gulishakhali Union in Amtali Upazila, Barguna—is one such location, brimming with potential thanks to its natural beauty and serene atmosphere. Despite being

◆ see page 7



CRA Holds Constitution Orientation Session for New Members

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

?With a commitment to improving journalistic standards, maintaining discipline, and practicing professional ethics, the Chittagong Reporters

◆ see page 7

Govt issues gazette on model mosque management policy

Staff correspondent

The government has issued the 'Model Mosque Management Policy-26' to ensure that model mosques serve not only as places of worship but also as centres of religious education, public awareness and social welfare activities. The Ministry of Religious Affairs issued the gazette notification on September 24. The policy outlines guidelines for the management of model mosques, recruitment of personnel, payment of salaries and hon

◆ see page 7



111 Rounds of Ammunition Rifle Magazines and Hand Grenades Recovered from Sapri River in Jaintapur

Naeem Ahmed, Jaintapur-Gowainghat Sylhet

A total of 111 rounds of live ammunition, two rifle magazines and two hand grenades have been recovered during a law enforcement operation in the Sapri River area of Jaintapur in Sylhet.

On September 27, at around 4:20 pm, a special operation was conducted based on a tip-off by a team of SRB-9 along the bank of the Sapri River in front of the residence of a man named Jayanek Purush Islam in Baurbhag Malifaud village under Ujipur Union of Jaintapur Police Station. During the operation, a thorough search of the riverbank led to the recovery of two rifle magazines, two hand grenades and 111 rounds of live ammunition for .303 rifles, which had reportedly been looted from a police station. The items were found abandoned. However, no one associated with the recovered arms and ammunition could be arrested immediately. As the two hand grenades were explosive devices, they were destroyed in accordance with regulations by the Bomb Disposal Unit of SRB-9 in Sylhet. The recovered evidence was later handed over to Jaintapur Police Station for further

◆ see page 7

3 more children die with measles symptoms

Staff correspondent

Three more children died with measles symptoms across the country in the past 24 hours, raising the number of deaths from confirmed measles and measles symptoms to 1,099 from March 15 to September 28, according to a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) control room issued today. A total of 1,214 suspected measles cases were reported in the past 24 hours, while the number of suspected cases stood at 189,255 from March 15 to September 28, it said. In the past 24 hours, 96 confirmed measles cases were reported, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 21,308 since March 15. From March 15 to September 28, a total of 167,469 suspected measles patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country. During the same period, 160,705 patients recovered and were discharged from the hospitals. Three children died with suspected measles in the past 24 hours, while a total of 998 children have died from the same cause since March 15. No one died from confirmed measles in the past 24 hours

◆ see page 7

Severe Riverbank Erosion in Kaukhali



G.M. Adol, Pirojpur District Correspondent

Severe riverbank erosion has suddenly hit Palpara area of Madhya Sonakur village under Amrajuri Union in Kaukhali upazila of Pirojpur, triggering panic among residents living along the Sandhya River.

The erosion began abruptly around 6:00am on Sunday (September 27) along the western bank of the river. Within moments, a residential house and an electricity line were washed away into the river, leaving the entire area without electricity. Local residents said they were terrified when the riverbank suddenly began collapsing in the morning. Many people hurriedly left their homes and moved to safer places. At one point, the house of local resident Mona Malo disappeared into the river almost instantly. Electricity poles and lines were also pulled into the river by the erosion. Five riverside temples—Loknath, Kali, Durga, Shital and Ganga temples—are currently at serious risk of being washed away. Residents fear that the

extreme risk.

Fearing the loss of their homesteads, several families have already left their homes and are spending time under the open sky. According to local residents, around 20 to 22 houses in the area have previously been washed away by erosion of the Sandhya River. Bipul Malo, one of the affected residents, said, "All five temples in the village are now facing erosion. Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, is approaching. We are in deep uncertainty over whether the temples can be saved." Residents also said that many of the affected and displaced families had to spend much of the day without adequate food. They are deeply worried about where they will go if their last remaining shelter is also swallowed by the river. The affected families and local residents have urged the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to prevent further erosion and protect the homes, temples and livelihoods of people living along the riverbank.

Education Aligned with Religious Values Is True Education: Aslam Chowdhury

Md. Omar Faruk | Special Correspondent

School is the foundation of education, discipline and knowledge, where students acquire lessons that shape the course of their future lives. Every religion teaches people honesty, justice and humanity. Therefore, education pursued in harmony with religious values can have a positive impact on individual, family, social and national life, said Aslam Chowdhury, adviser to the BNP Chairperson and former Joint Secretary General of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a programme held at KM High School in Faujdardhat, Salimpur, Sitakunda, on Monday morning. The event was organised to observe Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH), honour meritorious students and distribute annual awards.

Addressing the students, Aslam Chowdhury said those who have achieved good results should strive to perform even better, while those who have performed comparatively less well should make greater efforts to improve.

"Students, their families and educational institutions must work together. Alongside academic education, students should also be encouraged to uphold religious values, morality and discipline," he said. He further said that following the teachings and ideals of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) can help guide students away from undesirable paths and contribute to building a disciplined and morally conscious generation.

Referring to his own connection with the institution, Aslam Chowdhury said, "As a former student of this school, I have a special sense of responsibility

◆ see page 7



Traditional Boat Race Competition Organized by Manab Kalyan Sangathan in Haripur, Nasirnagar



M Badal Khandaker (District Representative) Brahmanbaria.

The traditional boat race competition 2026 was held in Haripur Union of Nasirnagar Upazila of Brahmanbaria with a colorful arrangement. The competition was organized under the joint initiative of Haripur Union Nationalist Party (BNP) and Haripur Manab Kalyan Sangathan. Thousands of enthusiastic people thronged both banks of the river to see this lost folk heritage and lively festival of rural Bengal.

After the boat race competition, a grand prize distribution ceremony was organized. The event was presided over by Haji Titan Ali Fakir, President of Haripur Manab Kalyan Sangathan, and the chief guest was M. A. Hannan, Member of Parliament for Brahmanbaria-1 (Nasirnagar) constituency. Special guests present at the event were Nasirnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md. Imran Uddin, Assistant Commissioner (Land) Chowdhury Biswanath Anand and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nasirnagar Police Station Shahinul Islam. Also present as spe-

cial guests were Nasirnagar Upazila BNP General Secretary K. M. Bashir Uddin Tuhiin, Organizing Secretary Adv. Ali Azam, Haji Jamal Mia, and Haripur Union Parishad Chairman Md. Yasin Hossain Roman. The entire program was successfully conducted by Habibur Rahman. At the end of the final round of the competition, prizes were distributed among the winning boats. In it, 'Shapla Boys Club' of Khemtapur of Sarail achieved the glory of becoming champion by securing 1st place. In the competition, 'Shapla Boys Club' of Buddhan of Sarail secured 2nd place and the 'Bulla' boat of Basudev of Bijoynagar secured 3rd place. Attractive smart TVs and Walton brand fridges were handed over to the winning teams as first and second prizes by Chief Guest M. A. Hannan and other guests present. In his speech as chief guest, Member of Parliament M. A. Hannan said, "Boat racing is an ancient and integral part of our Bengali culture. It is not just a game, it is a gathering of harmony for our rural people. Organizing such traditional and healthy entertainment sports competitions to keep the young society away from perverted culture and drugs deserves praise." He expressed his sincere thanks to the organizing organizations Haripur BNP and Haripur Manab Kalyan Sangathan for presenting such a beautiful event successfully. Finally, this traditional event ended

◆ see page 7

ESTD-2006

কর্মজীবী মানুষের সুবিধার্থে

জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতালে

এখন প্রতি **শুক্রবার** বিকালে রোগী দেখবেন

চক্ষু বিশেষজ্ঞ ও সার্জন

ড. আহম্মাদুল বারী

এম.বি.বি.এস, এম.এস (অপথালমোলোজী)
এমপিএইচ (ক্লিনিক্যাল অপথালমোলোজী)
পিএইচডি (অপথালমোলোজী)
সিনিয়র কন্সাল্ট্যান্ট ও সার্জন,
জালালাবাদ চক্ষু হাসপাতাল এন্ড ফ্যাকালি সেন্টার

সন্ধ্যা ৬টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

০১৭০২-৫৫৮৭৫৯
০১৯২০-১২৫৪৯৫

ওয়াপদা গেট, অক্সিজেন, চট্টগ্রাম

Humanitarian Eye Doctor

Free treatment is provided to helpless and extremely poor eye patients. Jalalabad Eye Hospital, Chattogram.

President urges businesses

entrepreneurs arising from Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030, as well as the development activities, economic activities, infrastructure construction and growing demand for skilled manpower linked to the World Expo and the FIFA World Cup 2034.The president advised the delegation to make effective use of the huge opportunities and potential and assured them of his full cooperation.The delegation said its businesspeople and entrepreneurs are working to promote Bangladeshi products, services and promising sectors in five major Saudi cities by engaging skilled manpower trained in technical and technological education.They are also working to project a positive image of Bangladesh and establish the country’s brand in Saudi Arabia, it said.The delegation also invited the president to attend as chief guest the inaugural ceremony of an upcoming international seminar in Dhaka which will bring together prominent Saudi investors, entrepreneurs and businesspeople.President Fakhrul assured the delegation that he would attend the event.Chamber Vice-President Sheikh Nasir Uddin and directors Priti Chakraborty, Md Jannatul Ferdous, ABM Siddiq, Md Sajjad-Un-Newaz, Zahirul Mahmud Mamun and Shamsul Alam Liton were present. The president’s Military Secretary, Secretary and Press Secretary were also present.

A vast expanse of greenery

surrounded by the Payra River, Majher Char has not yet been developed into a tourist destination. There is a lack of planned infrastructure for tourists, such as designated boat landings or seating areas. Nevertheless, the place holds an inherent appeal derived from nature's own beauty. The combination of the river, lush greenery, boat journeys, and the authentic atmosphere of rural life lays the foundation for Majher Char to become a promising tourist destination.

A Harmony of River, Greenery, and Silence

One of the main attractions of Majher Char is the surrounding river and natural environment. Free from the clamor of city life, this landmass is encircled by the waters of the Payra River. A boat ride on the river, the open sky, the lush vegetation, and the natural rhythm of rural life offer visitors a unique experience.

The morning sunlight on the river, the shifting colors of the western sky in the afternoon, and the silence that descends upon the water at dusk—these elements hold great appeal for nature lovers. At the same time, the local lifestyle, the activities of river-dependent communities, and the agrarian environment offer tourists a realistic glimpse into life in a coastal region.

Potential to Become a Tourist Hub Through Planned Initiatives

According to tourism experts, transforming a natural site into a tourist destination requires more than just building infrastructure; factors such as the local environment, biodiversity, the land's carrying capacity, and the lives and livelihoods of the local community must also be taken into consideration. A similar integrated plan is required for Majher Char as well. The first step could involve conducting a survey on the char's land characteristics, size, connectivity, environment, and biodiversity. Subsequently, following a feasibility study, eco-friendly tourism infrastructure could be developed on a limited scale. The site could become more visitor-friendly through the establishment of safe boat transport, a designated jetty, seating areas, walkways, rest stops, an information center, signage, waste management systems, and basic safety measures. However, it is crucial to ensure that the natural beauty and environment of the char are not destroyed in the name of development. Excessive concrete structures, unplanned shops, or the proliferation of plastic and waste could undermine this potential.

'Eco-tourism' could open up new horizons of possibility. There is an opportunity to develop Majher Char as an eco-tourism destination rather than a conventional tourist spot. A nature-oriented tourism environment could be created here through the planting of native trees, preservation of bird habitats, protection of natural water bodies and green spaces, designated walkways, and anti-plastic management measures. If such initiatives are implemented, tourists might visit not only for recreation but also to experience nature and coastal biodiversity.

The site could also become a hub of interest for students, nature enthusiasts, photographers, and researchers. The local economy could be transformed.

Launching tourism activities centered around Majher Char could bring benefits to the local community. New employment opportunities could arise through boat operations, local tour guiding, food stalls, the sale of local agricultural produce and handicrafts, small businesses, and various service-oriented activities. Creating opportunities to showcase food products or handicrafts made by local women, agricultural produce, and traditional local cuisine to tourists can establish a direct link between tourism and the local economy. This would benefit local entrepreneurs while simultaneously offering tourists a chance to experience the unique culture and lifestyle of the area.

Emphasis on Connectivity and Safety

However, establishing a safe transportation system will be a crucial factor in developing Majher Char as a tourist destination. For river travel, it is essential to ensure designated vessels, safe landing points, life jackets, weather alerts, and emergency rescue mechanisms.

At the same time, safety guidelines for tourists, information boards regarding environmental conservation, and emergency communication systems need to be in place. The plan should also address the capacity to manage the influx of visitors during the peak tourism season.

Need for a Coordinated Long-Term Plan

Bringing Majher Char into the spotlight as a potential tourist destination requires a coordinated effort involving the local administration, tourism-related organizations, environmental experts, local public representatives, and the general public. A detailed feasibility study could be conducted first to assess the char's environmental risks, connectivity, land use, tourist carrying capacity, and infrastructure requirements. Subsequently, tourism activities could be launched on a limited, experimental basis and developed in phases based on the experience gained. This approach would ensure the proper use of public funds while minimizing the risk of environmental damage caused by unplanned development. Locals hope that the relevant authorities will seriously consider the potential of this natural landmass situated in the Payra River. They also hope that effective measures will be taken to preserve the natural characteristics and environment of Majher Char alongside tourism development.

If planned tourism is developed by protecting nature rather than merely exploiting its beauty, Majher Char could become a key part of Amtoli's tourism...

Bangladesh, Pakistan

liver transplantation, support them during subsequent transplant surgeries in Bangladesh and provide post-procedure care through telemedicine, the release said.The two sides also discussed enhancing trade in surgical equipment and pharmaceutical products.The health minister said Bangladesh could increase exports of vaccines and cancer medicines to Pakistan. He also invited Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities in Bangladesh's health sector, according to the release.

CRA Holds Constitution

Association (CRA) held a constitution orientation session for its newly inducted members.

?The lively session took place on Sunday evening at the CRA office located at the Cheragi Pahar intersection in Chattogram city.

?Speaking as the chief guest, Faruk Iqbal, senior journalist and permanent member of the Chittagong Press Club, said, "Journalism is not merely a profession; it is a social responsibility. Alongside organizational discipline, upholding professional standards is the duty of every media professional."

?Ayan Sharma, Advisory Editor and Publisher of Dainik Chattogram Pratidin, who was the keynote speaker, noted, "Enhancing the professional skills of newcomers and providing them with a clear understanding of the constitution strengthens the foundation of an organization."

?Presided over by CRA Convener Md. Rubel and moderated by Member Secretary Saifuddin Romiz, the event was also addressed by special guests, including former CRA President Sohag Arefin and Rajdhani TV's Chattogram Bureau Chief Sohel Mahmud.

?During the program, detailed outlines of the organization's constitution were handed over to the new members, and they were briefed on their duties and responsibilities. Speakers urged both veteran and novice journalists to work together to preserve the tradition and professionalism of the CRA. Leaders and members from various levels of the organization were present at the event.

Govt issues gazette

orariums, religious education programmes, financial management, discipline and security.Under the policy, a Pesh Imam of a model mosque will receive a monthly honorarium of Tk 20,000, while a Muezzin will get Tk 15,000 and a Khadem Tk 12,000. The honorariums of Khatibs and security guards will be fixed on a contractual basis.However, mosque committees with sufficient financial capacity may provide salaries and allowances to personnel according to the prescribed pay grades under the 'Mosque Management Policy-26'. The post of Imam has been placed under Grade-10, while the posts of Muezzin and Khadem have been placed under Grade-16 and Grade-18 respectively. The posts of Khatib and security guard will remain contractual.The policy requires Khatibs and other personnel working at model mosques to perform their duties as custodians of the mosques with trustworthiness, honesty, piety and sincerity.They will not be allowed to actively participate in the activities of any political party and will not be permitted to leave their workplaces without authorised leave.The policy also includes provisions for festival allowances on Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha. Personnel mentioned in Article 7 may receive a festival allowance equivalent to their honorarium for the month preceding the respective Eid.Under the new policy, committees will be formed at city, district and upazila levels to conduct and manage mosque-based religious education programmes.Model mosques are expected to arrange Quran education, adult education, hifz programmes and maktab education for children.The mosque management committees will be responsible for arranging Friday prayers, pre-khutba and khutba sessions, the five daily prayers, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha prayers and funeral prayers.During Ramadan, the committees will arrange the appointment and accommodation of huffaz to lead Tarawih prayers.The management committees must ensure the sanctity, discipline, security and cleanliness of the mosques. They will also undertake necessary development and renovation work, prepare and implement annual work plans and prepare budgets.The committees will maintain and supervise records of mosque income and expenditure, as well as cash and movable and immovable assets.The policy requires the committees to maintain meeting minutes and attendance records, conduct annual audits of accounts and undertake income-generating activities for the mosques.It also stipulates that all mosque income must be deposited into the mosque's bank account within a maximum of seven days. In addition, the mosque management committees will organise prayers, supplications and religious programmes on special days declared by the government.

111 Rounds of Ammunition

legal action. Intelligence activities and operations by SRB-9 to maintain law and order and recover looted arms and ammunition are continuing across the country.

3 more children

across the country. Since March 15, a total of 101 children have died from confirmed measles.

Festive mood in Feni ahead of

as flooding, waterlogging, and river erosion. Once implemented, the project is expected to bring a revolutionary transformation to agriculture, trade, and the socioeconomic livelihood of the riverbank communities.

"Water management is directly tied to our economy. Reducing the risks of flooding and erosion will safeguard farmers' crops and boost the local economy. We are actively working to grant the people of Feni permanent protection from waterlogging distress, and the Prime Minister's visit will further accelerate these efforts," said Farhad Hossain Azad.

He strictly instructed officials to maintain execution quality, preserve ecological balance, and place the highest priority on the interests of local residents during project implementation. Among others present during the visit were Member of Parliament for Feni-1 Munshi Rafiqul Alam (Majnu), Member of Parliament for Feni-2 Professor Joynal Abedin, the Deputy Commissioner of Feni, alongside high-ranking officials from the district administration and the Water Development Board.

Education Aligned with Religious

and a greater attachment to it."

He urged students to embrace the advancement of science and knowledge while remaining aware of and avoiding their harmful aspects. He also expressed his commitment to continuing his maximum cooperation for the overall development of the school.

The programme was presided over by Mohammad Aminul Islam, Head Teacher of KM High School, and moderated by Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, Assistant Head Teacher.

Amzad Hossain Chowdhury, a former student of the school and Senior Vice-President of the Chattogram Chamber, attended the programme as a special guest.

Among others, Mohammad Morsalin, Member Secretary of Sitakunda Upazila BNP; Salamat Ullah Salam, Joint Convener; BNP leaders Saiful Huda Mohammad Jahangir, K.M. Nazim Uddin, Abul Hashem, Zahedul Hasan, Ashraf Ali Member and Tarek Hossain, among others, addressed the gathering.The event brought together teachers, students, former students, local political leaders and distinguished members of the community.

Traditional Boat Race

with prize distribution in a joyful and festive atmosphere.

Irene Khan reiterates PM's appeal in resolving Rohingya crisis

Staff correspondent

Bangladesh Permanent Representative and Ambassador to UN Irene Khan has retreated Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's call for greater international action to resolve the Rohingya crisis and enable the safe return of more than 1.2 million forcibly displaced people to Myanmar. In his first address to the United Nations General Assembly, the Prime Minister called for political action to end the prolonged Rohingya crisis while he proposed a roadmap for voluntary and safe repatriation to Myanmar and more humanitarian support for the displaced

people. "What is really failing is the international commitment to, first of all, assist these 1.2 million Rohingyas and, secondly, support the Bangladesh government during a very difficult time in the country. And thirdly, to find a solution for the people," Irene Khan told BBC World Service in an interview from New York.

Asked whether the international response was failing the Rohingyas as funding declined and global attention shifted elsewhere, Irene Khan said the failure lay in the lack of commitment to help the refugees, support Bangladesh and find a solution.

Irene described the Rohingyas in Bangladesh as the largest displaced people's caseload in the world now and said they were living in crowded camps in a heavily populated country. "Aid is badly needed, but the aid is shrinking. Humanitarian aid is shrinking at this time," she said.The Rohingyas have lived in the camps for nine years, Irene said, with children growing up there and about 30,000 babies born in the camps each year.

"Where do they go? Nine years is a long time to stay in a camp," she said.Irene Khan said this was why the Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had appealed to the international community, the UN and interested parties both within and beyond the region to secure a solution. "The problem of the Rohingyas, the source is inside Myanmar, and we believe that the solution also lies there," she said.The Rohingyas were keen to return home, she added, but wanted to do so "in safety and dignity".

Asked what concrete commitments Bangladesh wanted, Irene Khan called for the UN and the international community to bring all stakeholders to the table.

She named Bangladesh, Myanmar, other countries in the region affected by the crisis, and countries that could influence Myanmar or provide resources.

"What we want is a political process where the Myanmar government will be reminded of its responsibilities, its legal responsibilities to take back its people, but also assistance inside Myanmar that could make it safe for people to return," she said.

In response to a question about the UN's ability to address major crises, Irene said member states needed to take greater responsibility, particularly those with veto power on the Security Council.

"We really need those governments to work better together," she said, adding that Bangladesh and the vast majority of countries believed in multilateralism and in resolving global problems through diplomacy and dialogue.

At the UNGA sideline, on September 23, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman proposed five urgent measures to resolve Rohingya crisis, with a call to the global stakeholders for establishing a clear and credible roadmap for the early, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas, saying the time has come to move from managing displacement to ending it. "The time has come to move from empathy to a search for root causes and their solutions, from promises to action and from managing displacement to ending it," he said while addressing a high-level side event on 'The Rohingya Crisis: A Renewed Call for a Durable Solution from Protracted Displacement, with Justice and Accountability' at the UN headquarters.

The five proposals include establishing a clear and credible roadmap for the early, safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar; ending violence against civilians, including the Rohingyas and guaranteeing their fundamental rights and security; ensuring adequate and predictable humanitarian support for the Rohingyas and host communities; strengthening justice and accountability and stepping up regional and international cooperation to combat the narco-economy, human trafficking, digital scams, illegal arms and other transboundary crimes.

Govt takes initiative to reopen jute mills, create 50,000 jobs

Staff correspondent

The government has taken an initiative to reopen the long-closed jute mills of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) in phases.Stakeholders said once the initiative is implemented, employment opportunities will be created for about 50,000 people across the country.Production has already commenced in nine of the seventeen leased-out jute mills, creating jobs for around 9,500 people.In line with the government's election pledges to boost employment, attract investment, and ensure the effective use of idle assets, initiatives have been taken to resume different industries, including closed jute mills.

As part of this process, the leasing of three more BJMC-owned jute mills to the private sector is underway. These mills are MM Jute Mills in Sitakunda (Chattogram), KFD Limited in Rangunia, and Cooperative Jute Mills in Palash (Narsingdi). Officials at the Ministry of Textiles and Jute said the government has recently signed lease agreements with two companies for three state-owned jute mills. Among them, the PRAN-RFL Group has secured the lease for Jatiya Jute Mills Limited in Sirajganj and Star Jute Mills Limited in Khulna, while the HAMKO Group has got the lease for Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Limited in Khulna.

Under the deals, these three long-closed mills will be reopened under private management. Once operational, these mills are expected to create employment opportunities for at least 11,629 people and attract investments totaling Taka 619 crore. The total annual revenue is projected to reach around Taka 1,175 crore.In addition, there are plans to invest about Taka 157 crore in Jatiya Jute Mills at Raipur, Sirajganj. Upon reopening, this mill is expected to generate employment for 5,238 people and yield an estimated annual revenue of Taka 500 crore, the ministry officials said.

About Taka 250 crore will be invested in Star Jute Mills in Dighalia, Khulna. Once operational, the mill is expected to generate employment for 5,238 people and aims for an annual gross revenue of around Taka 500 crore. Besides, there are plans to invest about Taka 212 crore in Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills in Khalishpur, Khulna. Upon reopening, the mill will create jobs for at least 1,153 people, with a projected annual gross revenue of about Taka 175 crore. BJMC Chief Operating Officer Md Mamunur Rashid told BSS that the corporation currently owns 25 jute mills.

A decision was made to close these mills and lease those to the private sector due to persistent losses and an inability to compete with private enterprises, he said.

He said initiatives have been taken to lease 20 of the 25 mills to the private sector, while the lease agreements for 17 mills have already been finalised.

The process for leasing the remaining three is underway, Rashid said.Of the remaining five mills, he said, Karim Jute Mills Limited and Latif Bawany Jute Mills Limited in Demra, Dhaka are in the process of being handed over to the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), with plans to establish economic zones at these locations.He said legal proceedings are ongoing regarding BDCF Baghdad-Dhaka Carpet Factory Limited in Chattogram and Alim Jute Mills Limited in Khulna. Additionally, Amin Jute Mills in Sitakunda has been recovered, and the lessee company is expected to commence production by next December.When asked, State Minister for Textiles and Jute Md Shariful Alam said the then-government had shut down the BJMC jute mills in 2020.

After assuming office this year, the incumbent government took the initiative to reopen these closed mills under private management, he said.He added that this initiative aims to create employment, boost the economy, and ensure the proper



Illness Could Not Stop Teacher Sajal Kanti Nath

Sub-headline: Retires After 26 Years of Teaching

Jwel Nag, Mirsarai Chattogram

After a remarkable 26-year teaching career, teacher Sajal Kanti Nath of Jorarganj Buddhist High School in Mirsarai, Chattogram, retired on Monday. Despite facing various challenges and health complications throughout his career, he never allowed illness to keep him away from his teaching responsibilities. A farewell reception was organized at the school premises on Monday, September 28, marking the end of his professional journey.

On the morning of his final working day, Sajal Kanti Nath was given a ceremonial welcome by the students through a guard of honor as he arrived at the school. Teachers and staff, students, members of the school governing body, and local dignitaries were present on the occasion.

A farewell reception was held at 3:00 pm in the school auditorium, chaired by Head Teacher Tushar Kanti Barua. Colleagues, students, and well-wishers shared memories of Sajal Kanti Nath and highlighted his long-standing contribution to the school and its students.

Sajal Kanti Nath began his teaching career at Jorarganj Buddhist High School in 2001. Over the years, he taught countless students and played an important role in the school's academic activities.

His professional journey was not without difficult moments. He was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and underwent treatment. After gradually recovering, he returned to his regular teaching duties. He also faced other serious health challenges during his career. However, physical difficulties could not keep him away from his responsibilities. Even during periods of illness, he remained committed to teaching his students and serving the school.

During the farewell ceremony, Twinkle Barua, Biswajit Das, Saiful Islam Khokon, and Subrata Barua, along with other colleagues and students, delivered speeches recalling his dedication and contributions.

Assistant Head Teacher Subhash Sarkar praised Sajal Kanti Nath's dedication, sense of responsibility, and sincere commitment to his students.

Although his 26-year teaching career has formally come to an end, Head Teacher Tushar Kanti Barua said that his teachings, values, and affection for his students will remain cherished memories for generations to come.



Through various programs, 31st

founding anniversary of Al-Arafah

Islami Bank celebrated in Bagerhat

Masum Howlader, Bagerhat

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC, which started its journey in 1995 with Shariah-compliant modern banking services, celebrated its 31st founding anniversary. On the initiative of Bagerhat branch.

On the occasion of crossing this glorious milestone through various programs, a discussion meeting, prayer and munajat program was organized on Sunday evening (September 27) at the bank's Bagerhat branch office.

Present as the chief guest at the organized event was, Manager of the bank's Bagerhat branch and AVP Md. Masum Billah, special guest was, distinguished social worker, President of Bagerhat District Imam Association Maulana Ruhul Amin, presided over by Operation Manager and SPO Md. Iqbal Khan, also present were, social worker and businessman, Nasir Uddin Loni, Md. Parvez Haque, and others.

In the meeting, the chief guest, Manager and AVP Md. Masum Billah, said On this auspicious moment of completing 31 years, thanking customers, well-wishers and partners and everyone, he said, the values of 'Always Shariah' on which Al-Arafah Islami Bank started its journey in 1995, we are still moving forward holding on to those values. In this long journey, your trust, cooperation and love is our biggest strength. Inshallah, taking Shariah along, we will take Al-Arafah Islami Bank forward as a stronger and more modern Islamic bank. He further said

Times are changing, customer needs and expectations are also changing. Keeping pace with that change, we are expanding our service range in various fields including modern and innovative services, digital banking, retail and SME banking and remittance. Utilizing 31 years of experience and achievements, we are working with the aim of building Al-Arafah Islami Bank as the best Islamic bank in Bangladesh. At this time, branch manager, employees, Alem-e-Deen and businessmen, distinguished persons and customers of the bank were present.

utilisation of unused assets.Shariful Alam said the mills are being leased out through a transparent tendering process under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to attract both local and foreign investors. This initiative is expected to have a positive impact on the country's economy, he said.The state minister said the government is encouraging investors to increase the use of eco-friendly jute. Necessary support, including credit facilities, is being provided.



Tensions run high in Northern Ireland after contentious march gets go-ahead

International Desk

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham on Sunday urged calm in Northern Ireland after the High Court in Belfast approved a contentious parade during a late-night hearing. Thousands of protesters, many wearing balaclavas, gathered to prevent members of the Orange Order from marching along a street in the town of Portadown. The group strongly supports Northern Ireland remaining part of the United Kingdom, while many residents in the area favor unification with the Republic of Ireland. The decision marks the first time in nearly 30 years that an Orange Order parade has been permitted to proceed along Garvaghy Road, which was a notorious flashpoint between the two communities in the years before the 1998 Good Friday Agreement largely brought an end to the violence in Northern Ireland. During the so-called Troubles, around 3,600 people were killed and about 50,000 injured. The end of the Troubles required balancing competing identities in Northern Ireland, which remained

part of the United Kingdom when the rest of Ireland gained independence a century ago. Irish nationalists in the north, most of them Catholic, seek union with the Republic of Ireland, while predominantly Protestant unionists want Northern Ireland to remain part of the UK. Burnham called for “calm on all sides” over the parade, saying significant progress had been made in Northern Ireland and that “we don’t want to see things go backwards.” Jon Boutcher, head of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, urged “those with influence to encourage people to comply with the law,” referring to the large protest blocking Garvaghy Road. He said there had been no signs of violence or disorder. “Police are engaging and working with all parties and will continue to do so. It is incumbent on us all to come together at times like this to do all we can to preserve a peaceful Northern Ireland,” he said. Politicians representing the two sides expressed opposing views on whether the march should proceed. Northern Ireland First Minister Michelle O’Neill,

who represents Sinn Fein, a party historically linked to the Irish Republican Army, said the decision to allow the march “brings into question how this whole peace process works.” “The progress of the last 28 years have been brought into question by the actions of the Orange Order and those within political unionism that want to drag us backwards,” she said while attending the counterprotest on Garvaghy Road. Gavin Robinson, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, the largest pro-UK party in Northern Ireland, accused Sinn Fein leaders of inflaming the situation. “The rule of law cannot apply only when Sinn Fein likes the outcome,” he said. “Our institutions are founded on respect for the police, the courts and the rule of law.” The march received final approval following a court hearing that ended at 2:15 a.m. Sunday. The Orange Order takes its name from William of Orange, a Protestant prince of Holland who defeated Catholic King James and took the British throne in the 17th century.

South Korea seeks apology from Ukraine over disclosure of North Korean POW transfer

International Desk

South Korea has demanded an official apology and explanation from Ukraine after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy publicly disclosed the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea, which Seoul said was supposed to remain confidential. Zelenskyy told the U.N. General Assembly last week that Ukraine had recently transferred the two men to South Korea after they were captured on a battlefield in the Ukraine-Russia war in early 2025. They were among



thousands of North Korean troops deployed to support Russia. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung accused Ukraine of violating a nondisclosure agreement concerning the transfer. Ukraine, however, denied that such an agreement existed. Seong Ghi-hong, a senior presidential adviser on public relations, expressed “strong regret” Sunday over Ukraine’s disclosure and called for an official apology and clarification. Seong said Ukraine’s denial of the agreement was “false” and had seriously damaged trust between the two governments and their friendly relations. According to Seong, Seoul and Kyiv had agreed to keep the transfer confidential because South Korea was concerned about the safety of the North Korean soldiers and their families, as well as diplomatic and security considerations. Ukraine, meanwhile, was concerned that sending the prisoners to South Korea could lead to domestic criticism because it would lose a potential opportunity to exchange them for Ukrainian soldiers held by Russia. Ukraine’s Embassy in Seoul did not respond to repeated calls seeking comment Monday. North Korean POWs seek resettlement in South Korea The two North Korean soldiers said in media interviews while still in Ukraine that they wanted to settle in South Korea. Seoul had urged Ukraine not to return them to North Korea, where they could face persecution. South Korea legally considers North

Korea part of its territory and has a policy of accepting North Korean defectors and providing them with financial assistance. More than 34,000 North Koreans have settled in South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War, with most arriving during the past three decades. Most defectors have been civilian women from economically disadvantaged northern parts of North Korea, while defections by soldiers are relatively rare. Zelenskyy did not provide details about the transfer in his U.N. speech. He said one of the soldiers had attempted suicide after realizing he was about to be captured and expressed surprise that he survived. Some analysts believe Zelenskyy disclosed the case to highlight North Korea’s involvement in the war and encourage greater Western support for Ukraine. South Korea’s government, meanwhile, has been concerned that publicizing the transfer could provoke a response from North Korea and complicate efforts to revive diplomatic engagement between

Pyeongyang and Washington. Seoul maintains policy against direct military aid to Ukraine South Korea, a major arms exporter with a well-equipped military backed by the United States, has provided humanitarian assistance and other support to Ukraine and joined US-led sanctions against Russia since the war began in 2022. However, Seoul has rejected calls from Ukraine and NATO to provide direct military assistance, maintaining its long-standing policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively involved in armed conflicts. North Korea and Russia confirmed in April 2025 that North Korean troops had fought alongside Russian forces to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia’s Kursk border region. South Korea, the United States and other countries have also accused North Korea of supplying Russia with artillery shells, ammunition and missiles in exchange for economic and military assistance. South Korea’s intelligence service estimated last year that North Korea had deployed about 15,000 troops to Russia, with around 2,000 reportedly killed. Closer military cooperation with Russia has helped North Korean leader Kim Jong Un resist US-led pressure while accelerating the country’s nuclear weapons program. Last month, US President Donald Trump reduced the scale of a military exercise with South Korea in what appeared to be an effort to revive diplomacy with Kim. North Korea, however, indicated that the move was insufficient to persuade it to return to negotiations.



Rescue teams search Nepal mountain for 12 swept by avalanche

International Desk

Rescue teams searched a mountain in Nepal on Monday for 12 people who were swept away by an avalanche that killed at least two others amid severe weather. The avalanche struck Mount Himlung, a 7,126-metre (23,380-foot) peak in north-central Nepal, on Sunday. Ten other people were rescued from the mountain. All those killed or missing were Nepali nationals. They were staying at a base camp and preparing for foreign climbers who were expected to arrive to scale the peak during the autumn climbing season, which began this month. Helicopters evacuated the 10 survivors, while the bodies of the two victims were flown to Kathmandu airport on Monday and later taken to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. Family members and friends gathered at the hospital morgue but declined to speak to reporters. Heavy rainfall triggered flooding and landslides in Manang district, where Mount Himlung is located, over the weekend, according to the district administration office. The avalanche occurred as the Nepalese government warned of severe weather across the Himalayan nation. The country’s disaster management agency said 21 other people had died and five remained missing in different parts of Nepal between Thursday and Sunday. Nepal is still recovering from devastating floods in August that swept through several villages, killing more than 1,400 people and leaving nearly 6,000 others missing.

Trump expects more U.S.-Iran talks this week despite rejecting truce proposal

International Desk

U.S. President Donald Trump said Sunday that he expects the United States and Iran to hold more talks this week, a day after confirming that he had rejected Iran’s latest truce proposal. “I expect more talks with Iran [this week],” Trump said in a phone interview with U.S. online news outlet Axios. Citing two regional sources, Axios reported that another round of indirect dialogue between the United States and Iran could take place as early as Monday, although it remained unclear whether the two sides could bridge their differences. Asked whether he was considering resuming strikes against Iran, Trump said: “I am always thinking about it.” U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner held a new round of indirect negotiations with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last Tuesday. According to Axios, Iran proposed reopening the Strait of Hormuz and resuming nuclear talks within a week, on the condition that the United States lifts its naval blockade, removes sanctions on Iranian oil sales and restore a regional ceasefire.

Trump asked Xi about US arms purchases, ambassador says

International Desk

President Donald Trump has justified the pending U.S. arms sale to Taiwan to Chinese President Xi Jinping by downplaying it as just one of many sales Washington makes around the world — even asking Xi if he’d be in the

self-ruled democracy, to defend itself from China’s threat to invade the island. Bream asked if the U.S. is denying Taiwan to appease the Chinese president, who visited Trump last week. Perdue pushed back on the suggestion, stating that Trump “is as strong on Taiwan as I’ve



market for U.S. arms, Trump’s ambassador to China said on Sunday. David Perdue said Trump raised the prospect of the arms sales from the U.S. to its ascendant geopolitical rival, an unlikely offer that if consummated would upend generations of U.S. policy toward China and Taiwan and potentially expose U.S. technology to a potential foe. Perdue, speaking to Shannon Bream on “Fox News Sunday” days after Trump hosted Xi for a state visit in Washington, didn’t specify when the offer was made. Bream had cited concerns from Republican and Democratic lawmakers over delayed aid packages and weapons orders to Taiwan, the

ever seen anybody” and has sold it plenty of weapons. Perdue also said Trump and Xi continue to talk about future U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan. “But President Trump continues to say, ‘Hey, we sell arms to other people around the world,’” Perdue said. “He actually asked President Xi, would he like to buy some, at one point.” The U.S. is bound by its own laws to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself. While not recognizing Taiwan as a country, the U.S. is the island’s strongest informal backer and arms provider. But multiple U.S. leaders have left ambiguous whether they would commit military force to defend the U.S. ally should China invade.

Rain eases in Bangkok but flooding forces thousands from homes

International Desk

Rainfall eased in Thailand’s capital Sunday, but flooding continued in several low-lying areas, forcing thousands of residents to move to temporary shelters. At least eight people have died across the country over the past 10 days. Several days of heavy rain have caused widespread flooding in Bangkok, disrupting traffic and businesses. Rainfall totals have exceeded 30 centimetres (11.8 inches) in many parts of the city. Thailand’s Meteorological Department forecast moderate to heavy rain in several parts of the country Sunday but said weather conditions were expected to improve from Monday. Bangkok authorities have opened more than 200 temporary shelters, with around 3,000 people staying there as of Sunday. Floodwaters were still affecting 31 roads across the capital. Bangkok Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt said rainfall had decreased and city authorities were working to drain the accumulated water as quickly as possible. However, he warned that water levels in major canals remained high, with some continuing to rise as water flowed in from surrounding areas. Several low-lying parts of the city, particularly suburban communities, remained inundated, forcing residents in some areas to evacuate, Chadchart said. The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said more than 545,000 people in 25 other provinces had been affected by flooding as of Sunday. The central and eastern regions were among the worst affected. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said persistent rainfall had overwhelmed drainage systems in many areas. He instructed relevant authorities to take immediate steps to ease the situation and provide assistance to affected residents. Several long-distance train and bus services were suspended because of the flooding. Airports remained operational, although passengers experienced some delays.



Russian drones hit civilian areas as Ukraine reports battlefield gains

International Desk

Russian drone attacks across Ukraine killed at least three people and injured 41 others Monday, officials said, as Ukrainian forces reported fresh gains along the front line. The attacks came after a week of diplomatic efforts at the United Nations to advance talks aimed at ending Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine’s Third Army Corps said its forces had recaptured another 51 square kilometres (20 square miles) in eastern Donetsk region, bringing the total area retaken during its recent offensive to 176 square kilometres (68 square miles). The corps said Soviet-era BTR-60 armoured vehicles had been converted into unmanned explosive vehicles to destroy



Russian fortifications. Ground robots were also used in attacks, it said. Russia’s Defence Ministry said its forces captured Novodiane in Donetsk and Ulanove in the northern Sumy region. The claims could not be independently verified. Russian strikes also hit civilian and infrastructure targets. In Kyiv region, three people were killed and eight injured, while a strike on a nine-storey apartment building in Kharkiv injured 38 people, including 10 children. In Chernihiv region, four people were injured by a Russian drone. Meanwhile, Ukrainian drones caused fires at three infrastructure facilities in Russia’s Krasnodar region. Russia said its air defences intercepted 254 Ukrainian drones overnight.



What to stream: Quavo album, ‘East of Eden’ and ‘Minecraft Dungeons II’

Entertainment Desk

A new crop of television shows, films, music and video games is arriving on streaming services and gaming platforms this week, including a new album from Quavo, Netflix’s adaptation of East of Eden and the latest Minecraft spinoff. Other notable releases include Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma, Wynonna Judd’s first album in 10 years and Minecraft Dungeons II. New movies to stream starting Oct. 2 — Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma, streaming Friday, Oct. 2, on Mubi, is Jane Schoenbrun’s follow-up to the 2024 film I Saw the TV Glow. The film, which was showcased at the Cannes Film Festival, stars Hannah Einbinder of Hacks as a filmmaker attempting to revive a slasher franchise with its original star, played by Gillian Anderson. AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr described it as an ambitious, carefully crafted film that explores identity and transformation through cinema and popular culture. — Amir Bar-Lev’s The Last First: Winter K2, arriving Friday on Apple TV, follows the first group of climbers who attempted

a winter ascent of K2 in 2001. The expedition to the world’s second-highest mountain took place in extreme conditions, with temperatures at base camp capable of dropping to 50 degrees below zero. New music to stream from Sept. 28-Oct. — The Austin City Limits Festival begins Friday in Texas and runs across two consecutive weekends. Fans outside the state can watch a livestream of the first weekend, Oct. 2-4, on Disney+ and Hulu. — Country singer Wynonna Judd is releasing The Hard Truth, her first new album in a decade. Judd co-wrote most of the songs, with her husband, Cactus Moser, serving as producer. The album focuses on themes including heartbreak, healing, faith, loss and overcoming adversity. — Grammy-nominated rapper Quavo will release QRÖMELIFE on Friday, Oct. 2. Pharrell Williams serves as executive producer on the project. One of the album’s tracks, “Backwards,” features T.I. New series to stream from Sept. 28-Oct. 4 — Florence Pugh stars in Netflix’s seven-episode adaptation of John Steinbeck’s

MTV VMA awards 2026: Madonna dominates with seven wins

Entertainment Desk

Madonna emerged as the biggest winner at the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards, taking home seven trophies. Photo: Collected Madonna emerged as the biggest winner at the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards, taking home seven trophies at the ceremony held Monday (IST) at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. The pop icon, who led this year’s nominations with 13 nods, won Artist of the Year and Best Collaboration for “Bring Your Love”, her collaboration with Sabrina Carpenter. She also picked up Best Dance, Best Cinematography, Best Choreography, Best Long Form Video and Best Album, with all but the collaboration award recognising her project “Confessions II – The Film”. However, Madonna missed out on the night’s top honour, with Taylor Swift



winning Video of the Year for “The Fate of Ophelia”, wife, who was the second-most nominated artist with 11 nods, also won Best Direction for “Opalite”. She was additionally honoured with the inaugural MTV VMA Artist Director Honors, recognising her work as both an artist and director of her music videos. David Grohl from left, Krist Novoselic, and Pat Smear of Carpenters won Best Editing for “House Tour” and shared the Best Collaboration award with Madonna for “Bring Your Love”. The two singers appeared on stage together to accept the trophy. Sienna Spiro was named Best New Artist, while LISA won Best Pop for “Dream” featuring Kentaro Sakaguchi. Cardi B featuring Kehlani took home Best Hip-Hop for “Safe”, and Bruno Mars won Best R&B for “I Just Might”.

Wrestler Benjamin Satterley dies at 40

Entertainment Desk

Popular British professional wrestler Benjamin Satterley, better known by his ring name PAC and formerly as Neville/Adrian Neville in WWE, has passed away at the age of 40, the US-based wrestling promotion All Elite Wrestling (AEW) announced on Sunday night. The shocking announcement came just a day after PAC competed in his final match at AEW All Out in Chicago, where he challenged Andrade El Ídolo for the AEW National Championship. AEW, in a statement, said it was “saddened to announce the passing” of Satterley and described him as a wrestler known for his innovative high-flying moves and in-ring ability. The promotion said Satterley, a native of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, began his wrestling career in 2004 and went on to perform for wrestling organisations around the world. No cause or circumstances of his death had been publicly disclosed as of Monday. Several reports confirmed that details surrounding his death remained unavailable. PAC’s shocking death came shortly after he appeared at AEW’s All Out event on September 26. In the opening match of the main card, he faced Andrade El Ídolo for the AEW National Championship. PAC delivered a series of high-impact moves, including a 450 splash and an attempted Black Arrow, which are his signature wrestling moves, before Andrade countered and retained the title by pinning him. The match was notable not only because it was PAC’s



final appearance in the ring, but also because of how suddenly his death followed it. Born Benjamin Satterley, PAC began wrestling professionally in 2004 and established himself on the British independent circuit before gaining international recognition. He also worked in promotions including Pro Wrestling Guerrilla and Dragon Gate, where his aerial wrestling style helped build his reputation as one of the prominent high-flyers of his generation. He joined the world’s biggest wrestling promotion, WWE, in 2012 and performed under the name Adrian Neville. During his WWE tenure, he became NXT Champion and later captured the WWE Cruiserweight Championship. His WWE run made him widely known among mainstream wrestling audiences, particularly for his athletic style and signature high-flying offence. PAC became one of AEW’s early signings after the promotion was launched in 2019. He went on to win multiple championships in the company and became part of several prominent storylines and matches. AEW credited him with competing in some of the promotion’s memorable bouts since joining the organisation. He was also a member of the AEW wrestling stable Death Riders, a group centred around Jon Moxley. At All Out, PAC was involved beyond his singles match as the Death Riders remained part of the wider event storyline. AEW’s official All Out report described PAC and Andrade’s contest as a high-level opening match, with both wrestlers exchanging a series of reversals and aerial wrestling manoeuvres.

MBTACN launched to strengthen Malaysia-Bangladesh tourism, cultural ties

Entertainment Desk

Malaysia-Bangladesh Tourism, Arts & Cultural Network (MBTACN) was inaugurated at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) on Monday, aiming to strengthen tourism cooperation, cultural exchange and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries. Launched under the slogan ‘Bridging People. Celebrating Culture. Inspiring Tourism,’ the network aims to connect stakeholders from tourism, culture, arts, education, healthcare, business and youth sectors. Hazwan Hasnol, Chargé d’Affaires of the High Commission of Malaysia in Dhaka, attended the ceremony as the Guest of Honour and said the theme of MBTACN was particularly relevant as Malaysia and Bangladesh continue efforts to promote their tourism potential and unique cultural identities. “MBTACN can serve as an important bridge between these tourism initiatives, helping Malaysia discover Beautiful Bangladesh while encouraging more Bangladeshis to experience Malaysia Truly Asia,” he said. Referring to Visit Malaysia 2026, which has been extended into 2027, Hasnol said the campaign provides a platform to showcase Malaysia’s multicultural society, rich heritage, natural beauty, gastronomy and hospitality. He also highlighted Bangladesh’s tourism attractions, including the Sundarbans, Cox’s Bazar, rivers, tea gardens, historical sites, cuisine and cultural traditions. Hasnol also highlighted Malaysia’s Year of Medical Tourism 2026, saying the country offers world-class medical treatment, advanced technology, internationally recognised healthcare professionals and competitive pricing. He called for closer cooperation among hospitals, healthcare facilitators, travel agencies, hotels and tourism operators, alongside business-to-business cooperation, joint tourism packages, cultural exchanges and educational



partnerships. Barrister Mutasim Billah Faruqui, Chief Executive Officer of the Bangladesh Tourism Board, attended the programme as the Special Guest. Syed Yahya Syed Othman, former Regional Director of Tourism Malaysia and a founding member of MBTACN, joined the ceremony virtually from Putrajaya, Malaysia, and delivered his remarks through a video message. The welcome address was delivered by François Chambraud, Director of Alliance Française de Dhaka, while Md. Abdus Samad, Senior Adviser of MBTACN, chaired the session. Abu Sufian, Executive Chairman of MBTACN and Editor and Publisher of Travel Magazine VROMON, is leading the initiative and moderated the ceremony. According to the organisers, MBTACN will pro-

mote cultural festivals, art and photography exhibitions, film and literary exchanges, culinary programmes, student and academic exchanges, tourism cooperation, healthcare connections and youth initiatives. The network seeks to build on the longstanding friendship, travel, professional engagement and cultural exchanges between Malaysia and Bangladesh by turning individual relationships into broader institutional and people-to-people cooperation. Hasnol also acknowledged the contribution of Travel Magazine VROMON and its editor and publisher Abu Sufian to promote exchanges between Malaysia and Bangladesh. The speakers expressed hope that MBTACN would become a lasting platform for tourism cooperation, cultural exchange, education, youth engagement and stronger people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Florence Pugh’s anger at artistes’ silence over Gaza

Entertainment Desk

Oscar-nominated British actress Florence Pugh has lost millions of followers on social media for speaking out for the oppressed people of Palestine. But she has no regrets about it. In a recent interview with entertainment magazine Vanity Fair, Florence said that she has never been afraid to speak out for Palestine; in fact, she is surprised why it took Hollywood so long to speak out about the plight of the Palestinians. While many Hollywood stars remained silent on Gaza, Florence Pugh has been standing in support of Palestine. She regularly shares links to humanitarian aid funds for the Palestinians on social media. She also came to the centre of discussion by participating in the ‘Together for Palestine’ concert held

in London in September last year. At that time, Florence Pugh told the audience, “To remain silent in the face of such an extreme humanitarian crisis is not neutrality, it is complicity in a crime. I still don’t understand why it took people so long to talk about this situation and express sympathy,” Florence told Vanity Fair. “But I’ve never been afraid to speak up for Palestine. It used to confuse me when so many in Hollywood were consciously silent. Maybe their silence made me want to speak out more.” Florence also said that she was never told by her team not to speak out on the Palestinian issue. Even despite her busy schedule shooting for the movie ‘Avengers: Doomsday’, her colleagues supported her in every way to participate in the fundraising concert.



"Might get happily married all of a sudden": Keya Payel

Entertainment Desk

Actress Keya Payel believes she will eventually get married and when it happens, it could happen all of a sudden. Recently on July 15, the actress created a buzz by posting a photo with actor Arifin Shuvoo on her verified Facebook account with the words ‘Happily Married’. Many assumed she had secretly tied the knot, but it was later revealed to be the announcement of her first web film, Chorki Original ‘Happily Married’. Directed by Zahid Preetam and produced by Chorki, with Chabial as co-producer, the film under the ‘Ministry of Love’ project is scheduled to premiere on Chorki at midnight on October 7. The release announcement has once again drawn attention to the film, with many viewers expressing excitement in the comments. Some fans have also jokingly asked when Payel herself will actually become ‘happily married’ or make such an announcement on social media. Payel did not shy away from the personal question. She said she would certainly get married and would be happy when she did. “I believe in destiny. So, let’s see when it happens. It will happen when it is written in my fate, and everyone will know about it. But for some reason, I feel it might happen all of a sudden,” she said. For now, however, Payel is more focused on her work. Alongside acting in dramas, she is busy with endorsements and fashion runways. She is also scheduled to travel abroad in early October and plans to return towards the end of the month. Payel has been receiving offers for films and web films for quite some time, but she said she had been waiting for a role and story that would allow audiences to see her differently from her regular television work.



very humble. Overall, it was a very good experience for me,” she said. The film stars Arifin Shuvoo opposite Payel. His involvement also encouraged her to take on the project, she said. According to Payel, Shuvoo has the qualities and on-set presence expected of a leading actor. “Shuvoo bhai is very sincere, professional, quiet and helpful. At first, I was wondering whether I would be able to do it because he is senior and has so much experience. But while working with him, I never felt that difference. I really enjoyed working with him,” she said. Expressing her excitement about her first web film, Payel urged her fans to watch it and share their views. “As ‘Happily Married’ is releasing on October 8, I am very excited. It is my first web film, and the story is also very good,” Keya Payel said. “I want my fans to watch it and then share me their opinions. And of course, I have brought something different for my fans this time. They will be able to see a special Payel,” she said.

“I have received many offers for films and web films. I can especially talk about web films. I have been receiving offers since web films started in Bangladesh, but I have always felt that I wanted to work in a character and a story where people could see me differently,” she said. “As I regularly work in dramas, I wanted audiences to see a different Payel when I worked in a film or web film. From that perspective, I felt ‘Happily Married’ was a film where audiences would be able to see me differently,” she added. Payel also praised the film’s team, saying she had a very positive experience working with them. “The team of ‘Happily Married’ was very active and cooperative. I really enjoyed working with them and felt very comfortable. Especially our director Jahid Preetam, who is



Aminul sees Domestic 3 as model for other sports



Sports Desk

State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque believes that the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) new domestic cricket structure could inspire the development of other sports in the country. He made the remarks yesterday night while inaugurating the BCB's new domestic tournament, known as 'Domestic Three', which brings T20, one-day and four-day cricket under a single structure. Aminul said the new format could help keep domestic cricket active for six to eight months of the year and contribute to sustaining Bangladesh's success at the international level. "This format will not only take Bangladesh cricket forward but also inspire all other sports in the country," he said. The minister said one of the major objectives of the new structure was to ensure that cricketers remain active throughout much of the year. "If we can keep domestic cricket on the field for around six, seven or eight months of the year, I firmly believe that many of the prob-

lems we have discussed for years will gradually be addressed," he continued. Aminul said there was often a significant gap between players representing the national team and those involved in domestic cricket, but regular competition could help reduce that difference. "I believe this perception will change when we start this domestic cricket programme. We want our cricketers to remain on the field and matches to continue regularly so that we can establish and sustain the success we seek in international cricket," he said. He thanked BCB directors, sponsors, national cricketers and others involved in the initiative, particularly BCB president Tamim Iqbal, for their efforts to develop the game. Aminul also said he had discussed with Tamim and other cricket officials ways to improve cricket, take the game to the grassroots level and preserve its status in the country. He hoped that the approach adopted in cricket would have a positive impact on other sports. "We want to move forward with cricket, football, hockey, badminton, athletics, martial arts and swimming equally. All sports belong to us, and we are all Bangladeshis," he said. He also highlighted the broader social role of sports, saying sporting activities could contribute to positive changes in families, society and the state. "We believe sports can bring qualitative changes to our families, society and the state. We want to move away from a culture of revenge and build a beautiful, peaceful, humane and sports-oriented Bangladesh," he said. Aminul finally urged the six teams participating in Domestic Three to remain attentive to the development of sports beyond cricket. "We want the six teams represented here yesterday to look beyond cricket and keep an eye on all sports," he said.

BCB unveils D3 Trophy to revive domestic cricket

Sports Desk

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced a new domestic tournament structure, the 'Domestic Three Trophy', popularly known as 'D3', in an effort to bring back enthusiasm and competitiveness to the country's domestic cricket. The tournament will combine three formats - T20, 50-over and four-day cricket - under a single structure. Six companies-- H Bluestar, Walton Group, Citizen Bank, ACME Group, Seven Rings Cement and Fortune Group-- have acquired team ownership rights under three-year agreements. Among them, BCB directors Fahim Sinha, Mizanur Rahman and Shahinian Tanim are associated with ACME Group, Fortune Group and H Bluestar respectively. The D3 will bring together three existing domestic competitions while keeping the four-day National Cricket League (NCL) separate. The NCL T20, Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) four-day and BCL one-day competitions will be incorporated into the new structure. The announcement was made at a grand ceremony at a city hotel yesterday night, attended by State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque, BCB President Tamim Iqbal, board directors, national team cricketers and members of the coaching staff. Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque said that the new initiative would contribute to the development of Bangladesh cricket. "This tournament will not only inspire the future of Bangladesh cricket but also all sports in the country. If we can keep domestic cricket on the field for six to seven months a year, there will be a huge difference between those playing for the national team and those playing domestic cricket," he said. BCB president Tamim Iqbal said the board was concerned about the declining appeal of domestic cricket and wanted to restore its vibrancy. "We have often heard that domestic cricket has lost its colour, that there is no interest and that some people even call it picnic cricket. When we came to the board, we were concerned about this and thought about how we could bring that colour back to domestic cricket," he said. The T20 edition of the D3 will begin on December 15 at the newly renovated Jibanananda Das Cricket Stadium in Barishal, marking the venue's return to cricket. The BCB plans to gradually expand the tournament to all divisions of the country. The four-day competition will be held in January next year, while the 50-over tournament is scheduled for May. A team will be allowed to sign a maximum of 23 cricketers through an auction across the three formats. Coaching staff, team analysts, physiotherapists and trainers will also be selected through a draft process. The six teams also announced their icon players at the ceremony. Mehidy Hasan Miraz will represent Walton, Towhid Hridoy will represent Fortune, Mosaddek Hossain ACME, Mushfiqur Rahim Seven Rings Cement, Nurul Hasan Sohan H Bluestar and Mohammad Naim will represent Citizen Bank.

Bangladesh finish Asian Games campaign with 10-0 thrashing by India

Sports Desk

Bangladesh ended their Asian Games hockey campaign on a losing note, suffering a heavy 10-0 defeat to strong India in their final Group A match at Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium here yesterday. India dominated from the outset, scoring once in the first quarter before launching a series of attacks in the second quarter to further extend their lead. Bangladesh went into halftime trailing heavily. The Indian dominance continued after the break as Bangladesh struggled to contain their opponents' relentless attacks in the third and fourth quarters.

Sports Desk

Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird announced he was standing down on Monday amid a backlash over the partial privatisation of the Big Bash Twenty20 competition. Domestic body Cricket NSW withdrew support for Baird after Cricket Australia forged ahead with the sale of the struggling Melbourne Renegades franchise. "After much consideration I have decided to stand down as CA Chair and Director," Baird said in a statement. "I believe Australian cricket continues to be well lead by the CA Board." Baird will leave the role after Cricket Australia's annual meeting in late October. Cricket Australia has named former Test opener David Boon as Baird's interim replacement. Renowned for his bushy moustache, Boon is something of a cult figure in Australian cricketing circles.



Boon's teammates once claimed he downed 52 cans of beer on a flight between Australia and England in the late 1980s. Following his playing career, Boon has held positions as a national team selector and state cricket administrator. "It is an enormous honour to take the role of Interim CA Chair during what is a hugely exciting and also challenging time for cricket," Boon said. Cricket Australia has courted private investment in the domestic Twenty20 competition as it looks to shore up the game's financial future. But privatisation has been a thorny issue. An initial proposal to sell stakes in each of the BBL's eight teams stalled earlier this year amid concerns about a loss of control for the game's local custodians. While the Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania cricket associations voiced support and South Australia said it was open to the idea, New South Wales and Queensland rejected the move.



Next stop the world: Pathirage wins Asian Games javelin gold

Sports Desk

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage won javelin gold at the Asian Games on Monday to add to his growing collection and then set his sights on world and Olympic domination. The 23-year-old rising star has taken the javelin world by storm this year, winning at the Commonwealth Games, Diamond League and Ultimate Championship. He returned home from the last of those victories in Budapest earlier this month to find that his five javelins had snapped in transit. He put it behind him at the Asian Games in Nagoya, launching a best throw of 88.55m to claim yet another gold. "It's not a problem," he said after the competition. "I can throw any javelin." India's Yashvir Singh was second with a throw of 85.72m, followed by his countryman Rohit Yadav on 84.35m. Pakistan's reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, who holds the Asian record of 92.97m, was fourth with a throw of 80.29m. Indian star Neeraj Chopra was injured and unable to defend his Asian Games gold. Pathirage started slowly and saved his best throw for last in a competition that took place in torrential rain. "I couldn't get a massive throw," he said. "The grip was not good." Pathirage's winning throw was the third best in the world this year. He hurled a world-leading 92.62m in the Rome Diamond League meet on June 4 and in Zurich last month his 92.07 saw him become only the fourth man in history to exceed 92m twice. "This year was a very good season," he said. "My first target was to become Diamond League champion, my second target was Ultimate champion, third Commonwealth Games champion and last Asian Games champion. Pathirage, who says his teenage career as a cricket fast-bowler helped develop his javelin technique, is likely to be a strong contender at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "My next target is the world championships (in 2027) in China," he said. "And then after that the target is the Olympics."



Ireland beat Israel but no handshakes due to war in Gaza

Sports Desk

Ireland beat Israel 3-0 in a Nations League clash on Sunday amid an eerie and sombre atmosphere that saw the Irish players wear black armbands over the war in Gaza. Ireland's players also bowed their heads as the Israeli national anthem was played at the near-empty Debrecen stadium in Hungary. The teams skipped the traditional pre-match handshakes and did not exchange pennants either. Troy Parrott made a heart sign with his hands after opening the scoring on 14 minutes, while Jack Moylan kissed the Irish badge on his jersey and his black armband after netting the third goal 25 minutes in. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar accused Ireland of being "on the wrong side of history" over the players' actions. In a lengthy post on X, Saar referenced the Irish team of 1939 giving the Nazi salute ahead of a match against Germany in Bremen. He also referred to Irish neutrality during the Second World War and the condolences offered by then-prime minister Eamon de Valera to the German representative in Dublin following Adolf Hitler's death. "Almost 90 years have passed. Ireland's unique talent for finding itself on the wrong side of history remains intact," he added.

The game, in which Israel were the nominal hosts, had been in doubt earlier in the week until Ireland's players voted overwhelmingly to fulfil the fixture, despite pressure from back home to boycott the match. Only one player, goalkeeper Gavin Buzunu, pulled out, saying "it would be wrong to participate" in either this match or the return fixture in Serbia on October 4 due to the "killing of innocent people". The Irish federation did not reserve any tickets for fans to attend the match and public broadcaster RTE was due to show it without commentary. "Sports, soccer, basketball, everything is for the public, the people, and not for politics," 31-year-old software development teacher Mol Michael, draped in an Israeli scarf, told AFP. "Once you decide, because of politics, to cancel the Irish audience, this is a really stupid move from Ireland, in my opinion." Ireland has long been a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause, with sympathy often linked to the country's own history of British rule. Dublin formally recognised a Palestinian state in 2024 alongside Spain and Norway, and has repeatedly criticised Israel over the Gaza conflict. Israel strongly rejects allegations its conduct in Gaza amounts to genocide.

Messi on target again but Miami downed by Columbus

Sports Desk

Lionel Messi scored a brilliant equalizer but could not prevent Inter Miami suffering a costly 2-1 defeat to Columbus Crew in Major League Soccer on Sunday. Argentina superstar Messi curled in a superb free-kick in the 33rd minute to silence the Columbus home crowd after Josef Martinez had fired Crew ahead from the penalty spot five minutes earlier. But Messi's 21st goal of the regular season proved to be in vain as Crew dug deep to frustrate Inter Miami for long periods. Messi almost put Miami ahead in the 62nd minute when he burst forward and shot at goal, only to see his effort tipped over by Crew goalkeeper Patrick Schulte. Miami thought they had taken the lead moments later when substitute David Ayala darted clear of the Columbus back four and crashed a shot past Schulte at the near post. But the goal was chalked off after Ayala was ruled fractionally offside. Columbus meanwhile looked lively at the other end, and new Moroccan signing Anass Zaroury twice hitting the woodwork, including with one spectacular long-range effort that cannoned off the underside of the bar. The game looked to be heading for a draw but deep into stoppage time Columbus grabbed a winner.



Brais Mendez unleashed a curling shot from the edge of the area which Miami goalkeeper Rocco Rios Novo failed to secure. Senegalese substitute Jamal Thiare reacted quickest and lashed home the close-range finish to secure all three points for Columbus. The defeat dealt another blow to Miami's already faint hopes of catching Nashville at the top of the Eastern Conference. Miami now trail leaders Nashville by 14 points with seven games of the regular season remaining. Columbus meanwhile remain in the hunt for a playoff place, and are in 12th spot on 29 points - four points outside the postseason places.

Liton focused on making good start in Asian Games cricket

Sports Desk

Bangladesh captain Liton Das insisted on making a good start at the Asian Games cricket event rather thinking about medal as his side is set to take on Malaysia in the opening game tomorrow (Tuesday) at Korogi Sports Park, Nagoya in Japan. Rain has emerged as Bangladesh's biggest obstacle ahead of the game with the team denied proper practice and match preparation. Uncertainty remains over the match after both of yesterday's fixtures were abandoned due to rain. If such happens, Bangladesh will qualify to the semi-final due to higher ICC rankings. However, captain Liton Das said the team had made the best possible preparations within the limited opportunities available, stressing that weather conditions were beyond anyone's control. "The situation is the same for every team. No one has control over the weather. We were given as many facilities as possible, and we tried to prepare as much as we could within the time available," Liton said at the pre-match press conference in Nagoya yesterday. Although Bangladesh are no strangers to Asian Games cricket, their preparation this time has fallen short of expectations. Instead



of a proper net session, the team had to train on a football field yesterday. Liton said the players were prepared for such difficulties before leaving Bangladesh. "We practiced a lot before we came from the country. I told the players one thing — there might not be enough opportunities to practice once we came here. So I asked them to prepare themselves mentally for that," he informed. With cricket facilities limited in an unfamiliar environment, Bangladesh had already placed greater emphasis on completing their preparation at home. Even though a washed out game means, Bangladesh would move to the semi-final, Liton wants the match to happen because a positive result would give them a proper match practice ahead of crucial semifinal clash. "For now, let's play the first match. We'll think about the next step after winning," he said. Before leaving Bangladesh, Liton had identified reaching the final as the team's first target. He said tomorrow's match is therefore the immediate priority. "I said one thing before leaving the country — our first target is to reach the final. Whether we get gold or not is another matter. But tomorrow's match is very important for us. For now, I am focusing on that," he said.

Teams to pick support staff for D3 trophy through draft today

Sports Desk

The six teams of the inaugural Domestic Three (D3) Trophy will select their coaches and support staff through a draft before picking their players, introducing a new recruitment system to Bangladesh's domestic cricket. The management draft will be held today (Wednesday) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. The initiative is part of a major restructuring of domestic cricket by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), which plans to bring T20, 50-over and four-day cricket under one umbrella, with the same six teams competing across all three formats. H Bluestar, Walton Group, Citizen Bank, Acme Group, Seven Rings Cement and Fortune Group have secured team ownership rights for three years. The six icon cricketers have also already been finalized, with Mehidy Hasan Miraz representing Walton, Towhid Hridoy Fortune, Mosaddek Hossain Saikat Acme, Mushfiqur Rahim Seven Rings, Nurul Hasan Sohan H Bluestar and Mohammad Naim Sheikh Citizen Bank.



Bangladesh trail 1-0 at halftime

Sports Desk

Bangladesh trailed Singapore 1-0 at halftime in their crucial Group A match of the FIFA ASEAN Cup at Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday (Monday). Singapore dominated the opening half, taking five shots, four of them on target, while Bangladesh failed to register a single attempt. Singapore took the lead in the 35th minute when Nur Abdullah broke down the left flank and delivered a cross for Harhys Stewart, who headed the ball past Bangladesh goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon. Coach Thomas Dooley made four changes to the yesterday's starting XI, bringing back experienced midfielder and captain Jamal Bhuyan. Bangladesh XI: Mehedi Hasan Srabon (GK), Jamal Bhuyan (captain), Sheikh Morsalin, Hamza Choudhury, Suki Itofusa, Rakib Hossain, Zidan Yousuf, Tariq Kazi, Zayyan Ahmed, Saad Uddin and Shamit Shome. Earlier, Bangladesh opened their FIFA ASEAN Cup campaign with a 3-0 defeat to Malaysia.



Allegation of Fraud and Threats Centered on Flat of Journalist Leader in Brahmanbaria Victim Files Case in Court

M Badal Khandaker (District Representative) Brahmanbaria

Serious allegations have been raised regarding the purchase and sale, possession, unauthorized construction of a building, inconsistency in documents and security of the building of a flat in West Paikpara of Brahmanbaria city. A tense situation has arisen centering on the dispute between both parties in this regard. In this incident, concerned people are fearing deterioration of law and order situation and conflict at any time. Regarding the issue, a case has been filed in the court of the learned Additional District Magistrate of Brahmanbaria on 30/8/2026 under sections 144 and 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

According to the information of the petition filed in the court, Md. Asifur Rahman, a resident of West Medda area of Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila, has filed the said case himself as the plaintiff. In the petition, four people including Moitulul Islam Adnan and others have been made the second party. The application states that an agreement was made to purchase the concerned flat and land from the second party for a total of 60 lakh taka. For the purpose of availing bank loan facility in this regard, 70 lakh taka was mentioned in the deed of agreement. The plaintiff of the case claims that 15 lakh taka in cash on March 9, 2026 and another 10 lakh taka through the bank have been paid. After that, he has been in possession of the concerned flat and land and has spent about 30 lakh taka for about 2 long months on various works and beautification there. It is alleged that the second party constructed a new flat on the 8th floor of the building without the approval of the municipal authorities. When objected to the matter, although it was said that there was approval, the plaintiff came to know that there



was no approval for such extended construction after contacting the concerned municipal authorities. Concern has arisen about the structural safety of the building due to additional construction on the roof. After contacting several civil engineers and reviewing the structure of the building, they have expressed fear of risk, the applicant has claimed. It is also mentioned in the application that panic has been created among the residents of the building and surrounding people. Apart from this, the building was not constructed according to the approved design. Extensive errors have been found while preparing the documents of the flat and land for registration. At the same time, although the area of the flat was mentioned as 1,300 square feet in the deed of agreement, it was found to be 1,182 square feet in field measurement, as mentioned in the application. When asked to the second party about these issues, they did not give a proper explanation and threatened to evict the applicant from the flat, as alleged in the petition filed in the court. The plaintiff has mentioned to the court that there is a fear of clash, riot or deterioration of law and order situation between both parties in this incident. In this situation, the plaintiff has applied to the court to give necessary orders according to the provisions of sections 144 and 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to restrain the second party from forcibly evicting him from the flat in his possession, trespassing or creating any kind of obstruction to his and his family's peaceful possession. Accordingly, after analyzing the plaintiff's petition and other documents, the court directed the OC Sadar to maintain peace and order. However, the statement of the second party regarding the complaints filed in the court could not be known immediately. The matter is currently under consideration of the court.

Khulna WASA issues show-cause notices to 13 officials

Khulna Correspondent

Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (KWASA) has issued show-cause notices to 13 officials, including Executive Engineer Md Rezaul Islam, over allegations of submitting duplicate bills for the same water connection under a project. The irregularity came to light during a review of the final bill documents of a project titled "Laying and Installation of 5,000 Nos connection pipes and fittings to Khulna WASA Consumers. In a notice signed by Khulna WASA Secretary Mahera Naznin on Sunday, the authority said its review of the final bill documents revealed that bills had been submitted twice for the same connection. The duplicate billing was described as undesirable and irregular. The notice issued to Executive Engineer Rezaul Islam said he was aware of the matter and had demonstrated serious negligence and a lack of diligence in discharging his duties. He was asked to explain why departmental action should not be taken against him under the relevant provisions of the Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Employees Service Regulations, 2014. Rezaul has been directed to submit a written explanation to the managing director of Khulna WASA within seven working days of receiving the notice.



Drive Against Consumer Rights Violations

Two Establishments Fined Tk 55,000 in Feni for Overcharging LPG Selling Fake Red Sugar in Feni

Jahangir Alam, Staff Reporter

The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP) fined two business establishments a total of Tk 55,000 in Feni on Monday for selling liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) above the government-fixed rate and marketing fake red sugar. A special drive was conducted from 11:00 am to midday at Salauddin Intersection, BSCIC Industrial Area, and Boro Bazar areas of Feni city. Md. Asadul Islam, Assistant Director of the DNCRP Feni District Office, led the drive. According to DNCRP sources, the retail price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder set by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) currently stands at Tk 1,585. However, a dealer of 'BM Gas' named Messrs Mokka Trading Corporation in the BSCIC area was found selling each cylinder at Tk 1,730 at the wholesale level. During the drive, the dealer claimed he purchased each cylinder for Tk 1,560 but failed to produce any purchase voucher to substantiate the claim. Furthermore, the dealer was not issuing sales

vouchers to retailers. Taking advantage of the missing vouchers, retailers were charging consumers arbitrarily. For these anti-consumer practices, Messrs Mokka Trading Corporation was fined Tk 50,000 under Section 40 of the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009. The establishment was also strictly directed to comply with official pricing and maintain mandatory purchase and sales vouchers. Meanwhile, another enterprise named 'Messrs Sayem Khadya Bitan' in the city's Salauddin Intersection area was fined Tk 5,000 for selling counterfeit red sugar. Assistant Director Md. Asadul Islam stated that the drive was carried out to stabilize the market for daily essentials and protect consumer interests. Other merchants present during the operation were cautioned, and awareness leaflets were distributed among the public. A team from the Feni District Battalion Ansar provided security support during the operation. The DNCRP affirmed that similar drives will continue in the public interest.



Schoolgirl Allegedly Raped on Promise of Marriage in Nilphamari's Dimla, Main Accused Arrested
Mohinul Islam Sujon, Crime Reporter

A man named Shri Apon (22), the main accused in a case filed over allegedly raping and making a tenth-grade schoolgirl pregnant by promising to marry her in Dimla, Nilphamari, has been arrested by the Special Response Battalion (SRB). The arrested Apon is the son of Manoranjan of Sardarhat village under Dimla Sadar Union. He is a microbus driver by profession.

The SRB said that a relationship developed between Apon and the student of Dimla High School while they were traveling to and from school. It is alleged that during that time, Apon concealed his religious identity. On the evening of April 13 last year, he allegedly picked up the student in his own microbus by promising to marry her and raped her. Later, it was alleged that he had physical relations with her several times under the same promise.

On March 3 this year, a medical examination revealed that the student was pregnant. After learning about the matter, the victim's family contacted Apon, and he revealed his religious identity and later allegedly stopped communicating with the family. In this incident, the victim's father filed a rape case with Dimla Police Station on March 14. The case is Dimla Police Station Case No. 17. After the case was filed, the SRB began intelligence surveillance to arrest the accused. At around 1:30 am on Sunday (September 27), a joint team of CPC-2, SRB-13 (Nilphamari) and SRB-3, CPC-1 (Shahjahanpur, Dhaka) conducted an operation in Sardarhat village under Dimla Sadar Union and arrested Apon from his own house. Senior Assistant Director (Media) of the SRB and Additional Superintendent of Police Biplob Kumar Goswami said that the arrested accused has been handed over to Dimla Police Station for taking further legal action.

Health check-up of 400 students-guardians at Jorarganj Mohila College on initiative of Lions Club, cataract detected in 20 people

Rajib Majumdar, Mirsarai, Chattogram

Free health check-up and awareness program for about 400 students and guardians has been held at Jorarganj Mohila College in Mirsarai, Chattogram. Cataracts have been detected in the eyes of 20 guardians in the health check-up. The program was organized on Sunday (September 27) from 10 am to 2 pm at the initiative of Lions Club of Chittagong Khulshi. Free eye examination, blood group and diabetes test, distribution of glasses as needed, and seminar and leaflet distribution on breast cancer awareness for girls were conducted in it. Doctors of Lions Eye Hospital and pathologists of Comfort Hospital provided healthcare services. The organizers said that the 20 people detected will later be provided with free cataract surgery. The sponsor of the program was Lion Alhaj Mazhar Ullah Miah, senior member of Lions

Club of Chittagong Khulshi.

Present at the event were Lion Md. Mohiuddin Chowdhury PMJF, First Governor of Lions District 315, B-4, Bangladesh, Governor Advisor Lion Hasina Khan MJF, Lion Alamgir Hossain Babul, Lion Abul Hashem and ZC Concern. On behalf of the college



authorities, present were Principal of Jorarganj Mohila College Md. Zafar Ahmed, President of Jorarganj Balika High School Md. Mafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Headmaster Nepal Kumar Nath, President of Jorarganj Adarsha High School Abul Hashem Bhuiyan, Headmaster Md. Saiful Alam and teacher representative of Jorarganj Mohila College Md. Abul Hossain. The program was presided over by Lion Rasheda Akter Munni, President of Lions Club of Chittagong Khulshi. The overall management was by Lions Club of Chittagong Khulshi.



The enchanting Padma char in the whiteness of kashful

Visitors are rushing in the pull of nature

Biplab Kumar Das, Staff Reporter

"Autumn Queen seems to have opened the veil of kash, dancing gently from behind the kash forest"—just like the lines of poet Nirmalendu Goon, the autumn has adorned the Padma char of Sadarpur upazila in Faridpur. Thousands of kash flowers swaying in the gentle breeze seem to be creating waves of a white sea. In this mingling of the blue sky, clouds like cotton, and kash flowers, an ethereal beauty has been created all over the Padma char. In the vast char that has emerged on the Padma river adjacent to Akot Bazar of Akoterchar Union in Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur, the spread of whiteness has occurred. On-site observation reveals that dense kash forests have developed in various parts of the char. In some places, they are waist-high, while in others, they have surpassed human height. The swaying of kash flowers in the breeze under the blue autumn sky seems like a perfect picture painted on an artist's canvas. As news of this unparalleled beauty spreads, hundreds of visitors are rushing in from far and wide every day. Some are enjoying gatherings

with family, while others are with friends. They are making these moments of autumn memorable by walking among the kash forests and taking photos and videos. Especially in the evening, the kash forest takes on a different atmosphere. When the soft light of the setting sun falls on the kash flowers, it creates a serene environment. Visitors who come to explore say that this kash forest on the Padma has provided them with a wonderful opportunity to escape from the hustle and bustle of busy life. Locals say that due to settlement, the expansion of agriculture, and various development activities, kash forests are no longer seen in various areas of Sadarpur as they used to be. The tradition that is on the verge of disappearing due to the passage of time has now taken on a new form on the Padma char. Nature lovers and locals claim that this natural beauty and kash forest of the Padma char should not be destroyed due to neglect or human activities. If preserved, every autumn, the Padma char of Sadarpur could become one of the main attractive natural recreational centres.



Journalists Training Workshop on Environmental and Human Rights Violations Held in Pirojpur

G.M. Adol, Pirojpur District Correspondent

A two-day training workshop on environmental and human rights violations was held in Pirojpur, bringing together journalists from different print and electronic media outlets. The training was organized on Sunday and Monday (September 27 and 28) at the Dak Diye Jai Training Centre in Pirojpur under the ENGAGE Project of development organization CODEC, with funding from the European Union. NETZ Bangladesh provided technical support for the event. The training was organized under the theme, "Strengthening Environmental Human Rights through Local CSOs for a Just Transition and Transforming Climate-Vulnerable Areas into Resilient Communities." A total of 25 journalists from print and electronic media from Pirojpur Sadar, Mathbaria and Zianagar (Indurkani) upazilas participated in the workshop. During the training, detailed sessions were conducted on environmental protection, the relationship between the coastal climate crisis and human rights, and various techniques for producing investigative reports on these issues. The sessions were conducted by Abdullah-Al-Masud, Assistant Professor at Khulna University, Sara Khatun, Programme Manager at NETZ Bangladesh; Shafiullah Majumder, Project Director of the CODEC-ENGAGE Project; Shankar Kumar Biswas, Kazi Sani Ferdous, Technical Officer; and local field facilitators. The training was chaired by Khelafat Hossain Khasru, Vice-President of the Pirojpur Press Club. Speakers at the workshop said that objective and fact-based reporting is crucial to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental disasters in coastal areas. They urged journalists to play a more aware and responsible role in protecting the environment and promoting human rights. The participants were also provided with practical guidance on simple and effective methods of preparing news reports on climate change, environmental degradation and human rights violations.

International Right to Information Day Celebrated in Domar and Dimla Through Various Programmes

Mohinul Islam Sujon

Under the theme "Ensuring Accurate Information in the Digital Age: The Role of the Right to Information in Preventing Misinformation," International Right to Information Day 2026 was celebrated in Domar and Dimla of Nilphamari through various programmes. With the cooperation of NETZ Bangladesh and BMZ and organized by the PolliShree Agrojata Project, the day was celebrated through various programmes from morning to noon on Monday (September 28). In the morning, women, men and students from Dimla Upazila brought out a rally on a van, carrying festoons and placards.



Chowdhury, Unit Manager of the PolliShree Agrojata Project; Abdul Wahab, Unit Accountant; Ayesha Siddika Asha, Advocacy Facilitator; along with the students.

Parents' Meeting Held at Barabkunda High School and College

Discussion on Preparation for the 2027 SSC Examination and Academic Improvement

Md. Omar Faruk, Special Correspondent

A parents' meeting was held at Barabkunda High School and College in Sitakunda, Chattogram, focusing on the academic preparation, progress and overall performance of students who are scheduled to sit for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in 2027. The meeting was held on Monday (September 28) at around 11:30 am on the school premises. Principal Saiful Islam presided over the meeting, which was conducted by class teacher Tipu Sultan. Among others, Assistant Head Teacher Bijoy Kumar Deb, class teacher Meher Afroze Khanam, and former parent representative of the school's Governing Body Abu Naser addressed the gathering. Several parents, including Iqbal Hossain Rubel, Nurunnabi Saiful, Jahangir Alam, Pushpa Barua and Mehedi Hasan, also spoke at the meeting. The speakers emphasized the importance of regular studies, attendance, discipline and close parental supervision to ensure better academic performance in the 2027 SSC examination. They also stressed strengthening coordination and communication between teachers and parents. The meeting also provided an opportunity for parents to share their views and suggestions regarding students' academic progress, examination preparation and overall discipline.

